

VZCZCXRO9369  
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DE RUEHAK #0604 1701220

ZNY SSSSS ZZH

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FM AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8883

INFO RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE 2612

RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ASTANA IMMEDIATE 0073

RUEHEK/AMEMBASSY BISHKEK IMMEDIATE 2903

RUEHDBU/AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE IMMEDIATE 0068

RUEHNT/AMEMBASSY TASHKENT IMMEDIATE 5032

RUEHYE/AMEMBASSY YEREVAN IMMEDIATE 0063

RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING IMMEDIATE 0448

RHMFIS/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL

RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC

RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC//DHO-2/REA/NMJIC-J2//

RUEKJCS/Joint STAFF WASHINGTON DC//J5/RUE//

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC

S E C R E T ASHGABAT 000604

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR SCA/CEN (NICOLAIDIS)

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/19/2017

TAGS: [EAIR](#) [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [MNUC](#) [KN](#) [SY](#) [AM](#) [KZ](#) [KG](#) [TI](#) [TX](#) [UZ](#)

SUBJECT: TURKMENISTAN DENIES OVERFLIGHT TO SYRIAN FLIGHT

REF: A. ASHGABAT 599

[1B.](#) STATE 84289

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires, a.i. Jennifer L. Brush for reasons 1.  
4 (B), (C) and (D).

[¶1.](#) (S) Turkmenistan's Foreign Affairs Deputy Chairman Rashit Meredov called in Charge on June 19 to inform her that the flight referred to in ref b had requested overflight both to Pyongyang and back. The flight had reported it was carrying baby food. Meredov said the government had approved the overflight based on this information, but that the flight had not, in fact, overflown Turkmenistan on its way to Pyongyang.

Based on the reftel information embassy provided, Meredov said, the government had refused overflight for the return leg from Pyongyang.

[¶2.](#) (S) Turkmenistan continues to cooperate with USG requests for overflight denial for suspicious flights. It has complied with at least two prior USG requests regarding Iran-origin flights to North Korea. This is the first time Turkmenistan has been asked to comply with a denial request for a Syria-origin flight. Turkmenistan takes these requests very seriously and both the late President Niyazov and current President Berdimuhamedov refer to this cooperation as doing Turkmenistan's share in the Global War on Terrorism.

Meredov asked that CENTCOM Commander Admiral Fallon, who will meet with Berdimuhamedov July 17, be informed of Turkmenistan's compliance with this latest USG request. Turkmenistan also requests that this cooperation be handled discretely and not be publicized or shared with other governments.

BRUSH